



The Onyx Informer

SPECIAL REPORT

Blacks in the Year 2000

Where will you be?

Welfare reform

The center of the Republican party's agenda

By Merlin E. Aubourg
Onyx Staff

When the Republicans talk about welfare reform, they might as well talk about welfare removal. The Republicans plan to cut 20 billion dollars over the next five years from welfare programs in this country.

According to a Globe article on March 25th, A congressional study shows that more than half of the 5 million families now receiving assistance would be off the welfare rolls by the year 2000. The Republicans plan on doing this by: ending cash benefits to anyone on welfare for more than five years and to unmarried parents under the age of 18, combine school lunches and breakfast programs into block grants for states.

The Republican welfare program would substantially cut welfare rolls by prohibiting almost all legal immigrants and unwed mothers from receiving benefits. As representative Harold Ford (D) from Tennessee says "The only thing we can be certain of now is that the 70 million that is going to be taken from the children and the poor of this country is going to the rich. I say to my republican colleagues: Pick on someone your own size."

Actually, its 66 billion dollars the Republicans "welfare overhaul plan" will take from programs such as Aid to Families with Dependant Children (AFDC) and other welfare programs.

Rep. Richard Gepbart, the House Minority leader, says that "our best hope is that the Senate chooses to reject this tax-cut, bailout bill the Republicans are calling welfare reform."

Welfare reform is the centerpiece of the Republicans social agenda which is outlined in their "Contract With America." The welfare reform package which the Republicans originally proposed prohibited under-18 mothers from receiving any kind of cash or voucher assistance. That part of the bill was modified when anti-abortion lawmakers said that particular prohibition would probably cause more abortions.

Massachusetts state welfare director Gerald Whitburn said though he is pressing the Senate to turn the Food Stamp program into a "food assistance block grant", he said he does not want the states to gain control of programs such as the National School lunch program, supplemental feeding program for Women, Infants and Children, also known as WIC. In a Globe article on April 13, 1995 , "What we're about is trying to change the face of welfare as we know it . If we don't have control of all three of those programs. It's very difficult, if not next to impossible, to change behavior."

Representative Barbara Cubin, R-Wyo, in a March 25 Associated Press story, says there are effects on

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Affirmative Action

The New Campaign Front for the Upcoming 1996 Presidential Reelections and the Use of African-Americans as the "Scapegoat"

By Kathia Desronvil
Onyx Staff

On April 25, 1995 The People of Color Coalition at Northeastern University along with the co-sponsorships of NU Asian-American Law, Association, NU Black Students Law Association, The Disability Law Caucus, NU Latino Latino Law Students, NU Women's Law Caucus initiated a panel to speak out on affirmative action. The Panel was a "causal & effect" rebuttal to the allegations that affirmative action gives preferences to unqualified minorities, gaining an advantage over white males.

The students effectively formed a diverse panel consisting of the eminent contemporary Civil Rights advocates such like Senator Dianne Wilkerson of MA; former President of the Women's Bar Association of MA and currently lawyer for the Anti Defamation League in Boston,

Sally Greenberg; Karen K. Narasaki, Executive Director of the National Asian Pacific American Legal Consortium, DC and Co-Chairperson of the Administration of Justice Task Force for the Leadership Conference on Civil Rights; Chris Palames, Executive Director of Independent Living Resources, a disability rights collaborative, MA; Theodore M. Shaw, Associate Director-Counsel of the NAACP Legal Defense & Educational Fund Inc.

Wednesday January 4, 1995 marked the return of the Republicans and there' ever subtle oppressive ruling. The GOP (Grand Old Party) won the election last November with their "Contract with America"; a series of "remedying" rule changes that forewarns minorities to be on guard and stand at arms.

On the first day, The GOP was more than hasty in enforcing its

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campus / community

NBSA Resurrection

By Katty Vernet
Onyx Staff

The Northeastern Black Student Association, (NBSA) since the end of the 1992 school year, has slowly declined in power, activities, and membership. Now in 1995 the Association is still going through some tremendous difficult times. However, with the up coming elections in May, the current administration and certain specially appointed committees are working extremely hard to make sure that these elections are a success. The current administration, as is, consists of Charlana Mckethien as president, Heather Lions as vice president, and Nicole Black as Public Relations head. The Executive board has decided to spend the remainder of the school year amending their Constitution in the hopes of taking out any useless amendments and possibly adding new ones.

Sadly, among other problems plaguing the Association, NBSA has had a decline in membership, interpersonal conflicts between the executive board, and a lack of co-operation from other black organizations. The lack of commitment and

leadership ability by the Executive Board had by far been the biggest problem, whereas members of the board have not shown up for meetings or have simply unofficially quit while still in office. Consequently, this lack of responsibility, political astuteness, and leadership ability has in affect diminished, the organization's performance capabilities as well as destroyed the historical value of its good name.

The elections which will be held on May 29, 1995 will put the incredible burden on the new administration to do everything and anything possible to restore the Association to its former standing. The new administration will also have the unduly task of having to attract and sustain new members. NBSA will certainly have to develop an innovative and plausible proposal to address the effects of the ever changing financial programs at Northeastern, as it relates to Black Students. With such difficult challenges ahead, one can only compliment, and support the new administration for having the strength to contend with the obstacles that await the 95-96 administration.

Financial Aid

By Chuck Knight
Onyx Staff

Republicans such as Newt Gingrich are proposing a "Contract with America" and in this contract they propose to cut back funds from affirmative action programs to make a large deposit on the nation's ever increasing debt. The nation is over 4.5 trillion dollars in debt to internal and international institutions. Congress is adjusting the budget to help payoff a debt that they could not payoff if they emptied all the gold out of Fort Knox.

The process of cutbacks will put a large 20 billion dollar dent in the unstable college financial aid programs. These programs barely help students of low income families to attend expensive private institutions such as Northeastern. Government loans, grants and workstudy funds stand to be transferred into monies to payoff a tremendous debt.

Bursar blocks are common to

people of low income families, but we as students know that our blocks will clear when loans and grants come in. We as students are familiar with the fact that we are not allowed to have a part time job off campus because it would jeopardize our financial aid status. The monies that are supplied by our government to help avoid these predicaments, are going to a debt that is so large that if we stacked one dollar bill on top of another it would go to the moon two times and back.

To combat these proceedings every student that feels that they are in danger of being afflicted should write a letter of concern to their congress person, governor, mayor, and council person.

There is a plan for a Day of National Action Against the "Contract with America". Call the National People's Campaign at (212) 633-6646

Welfare reform

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welfare that are not immediately seen. "...when you take away their (welfare recipients) incentive, when you take away their freedom, when you take away their dignity, they have to be provided for."

Even some black democrats see the need for a complete overhaul of the welfare system. Washington D.C. mayor Marion Barry says the federal government should have more control over how much money is spent on the welfare programs of this country. "You start out with the philosophy that you can have as many babies as you want... If you don't ask the government to take care of them. But when you start asking the govern-

ment to take care of them, the government now ought to have some control over you." says Barry.

Some of the key points of the Republicans welfare reform plan:

- * Cash welfare - Replace WIC with a block grant to the states. End the the guarantee of cash aid to women and children who qualify. Benefits are cut off after five years, and unmarried parents under age 18 would not be allowed to receive cash assistance. No additional benefits to women who additional children while on welfare.

- * Child Care - Consolidate nine federal child care programs in a block grant to the states. Spending would be capped at 2.09 billion.

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Black College Students: What's In Our Future

By Alexandra M. Merceron
Onyx Staff

The approach of the 21st century brings with it a multitude of questions for African-American students. Will college tuition rates stabilize? Will the big "white" schools become more accommodating to their minority students? Will more of us successfully complete our undergraduate and/or graduate programs? Recent statistics cry a resounding "maybe".

According to recent statistics compiled by The National Center for Educational Statistics at the US. Department of Education, the number of African-Americans who have successfully completed undergraduate programs at accredited four year institutions has increased since the 1980's. Based on admissions information, we see stable enrollment of minorities at predominantly white universities such as Northeastern, as well as healthy and growing enrollment of African-Americans at the historically black colleges. One would hope that the future for black college students was a bright one. Unfortunately, the demons that have challenged black students for years are more than likely continue rearing their ugly heads on college campuses. We can only wait and see.

The two major obstacles to blacks pursuing post secondary education will be affording college after their first year, and successfully competing with

students (of any race) who are the products of better school systems, and therefore better prepared for college. These situations represent the proposed cuts in Federal Financial aid programs, and nationwide budget cuts in education. Furthermore these proposed cuts are beginning to threaten big cities like New York and LA.

All too often do we hear of people like "so and so's cousin, Ray-Ray, who was mad smart but couldn't afford to go to college". Perhaps the only solution is for universities to make the affordability of a college education their top priority. **How?** Improved, student sensitive money management. The concept of student sensitive money management implies that the management of all a university's assets, including donations, are to be managed with the goal of keeping costs down for students. This concept would be applied without compromising the quality of their education. Sounds impossible, but it is not. Just ask students at Rice University in Texas, or SUNY Binghamton in New York. Those schools have been ranked among the best, yet affordable colleges in the country by US NEWS three years in a row.

The problem of our people being better prepared for college is impossible to rectify unless we examine our secondary and elementary school systems. Do the children at suburban public schools receive the same educational opportunities as the children at inner

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▲ Affirmative Action

Continued from page 1.

changes for the House and engage on their debate on Government role. They plan to cut welfare for mothers under 18 but provide no alternative sources of income. Their ultimate intent is without a doubt to eliminate all social programs that provide justice to the poor.

Affirmative action is in the first round. As best stated, "with the Republicans at the helm the challenge that lies ahead is how to mobilize forces, not in the anticipation of any further gains at this point, but in an effort to block what are certain to be Republican efforts to turn back the clock," Baltimore Afro-American, Jan. 7, 1995.

The Republicans want to advance to a color-blind society; a society that does not assess hiring on the basis of sex or color. The elimination of affirmative action is their solution.

We live in a diverse society, a "melting pot", therefore to be color-blind is to ignore the significant differences of each ethnic group and their cultures, excluding them from effectively interacting in the society. This exclusion discloses the GOP's coveted racist intent.

Logic and statistics prove that by the year 2000 minorities will dominate the work force. By cutting off affirmative action they will intercept the progress minorities, especially African-Americans, have made thus, also further stifling future progressive movements.

The subject has become a political forefront for political campaigning in California. "Let us begin to undo the corrosive unfairness and reverse discrimination", Gov. Pete Wilson said supporting the initiative on affirmative action, Associated Press. Prior to his reelection last year Wilson had supported affirmative action programs.

On April 8, 1995

President Clinton urged California Democrats to "embrace the economic cause of anxious white men and accept scaled-back Civil rights remedies in order to deprive the GOP of a divisive "wedge" issue in next year's elections."

"This is psychologically a difficult time for a lot of white males... most working harder for less money than they were 15 years ago," said Clinton and further urging the crowd to "feel the pain of working men who... go home and look across the dinner table at their families and think they have let them down," John Aloysius Farrell, Globe staff. Formerly it was apparent that the Clinton administration was for affirmative action. From this quotation I have to ask who is he fighting for, "white angry males" or minorities. Last checked affirmative action did not include white males, though they have also benefited from the program.

"White males have a reason to be angry", said Palamos at the panel, but the "reason is apparent in the US's lack of direction and their inability to deal with the problems at home," The black face that has been painted on affirmative action is the result of "institutionalized racism."

There was an attempt to solve this "institutionalized racism" in 1964 but the fight lasted till 1968. He feels we need "community sense, nurturance, and love," such characteristics which we have been lacking since Dr. King's death.

However, Senator Wilkerson begs to differ. She feels that white males have benefited from the movement, facilitating their upward mobility in the middle management and senior levels at a faster rate. Women and minorities have only replaced white males by filling their old positions at the bottom of the hierarchy. Moreover, white women are the major beneficiaries of the movement.

"White women are 36 percent of the nation's work force, according to the Labor Department's "Glass

Ceiling Commission." They are 36 to 39 percent of executives, administrators and managers in wholesale, retail, entertainment, communications, and banking. They are 40 to 50 percent executives in insurance, education and hospitals; 66 to 67 percent in social service and health service."

"African-Americans are 10 percent of the work force, but only 4.5 percent of the executives. In no industry did the level of African-American male executives match or exceed their share of the work force. African-American women managers exceed their share of the work force in only one industry, social services. African-American went up in professions by no more than 2 percent," Derek Z. Jackson, *Globe* staff.

"Since 1983 white males have gone down 12 percentage points in executives (64 to 52), while white women have gone up 8 points (30 to 38). As white male lawyers and judges have gone down 8 points (81 to 73), white women have gone up 7 (15 to 22). As white male doctors went down 8 points (74 to 66), white women went up 5 (13 to 18). While the white male share of sales supervisors went down 10 points (67 to 57), white women went up 8 (26 to 34)," Derek Z. Jackson, *Globe* staff.

"I am very proud of white women's benefits from affirmative action," said Greenberg, because "women were the precursors for the Civil Rights movement, the Women's Movement leading to affirmative action. White males dominate 80 percent in congress, 94 percent as senators, and although they are 43 percent of the work force they make up 95 percent of managerial positions. She feels also that the Republicans are being hypocritical since so many revered institutions in America such like Harvard university, with their grandfather clauses, provide preferential treatment not based on credit.

Affirmative Action according the NU booklet the

issue, it is "the expression used to describe an employer's good faith efforts to provide all persons with equal access to employment opportunities without regard to race, color, sex, etc.

It was "never to create equality but equal opportunities, this is not about equity," said Senator Wilkerson.

Senator Wilkerson expressed her conviction that "it is about a referendum on American society to treat people with fairness. The challenge is for us to educate others about the truth on affirmative action. She informed us on March 1, 1995 Governor Weld, MA announced that there would be a review on affirmative action in Boston acknowledging that there were no

oppositions.

According to Senator Wilkerson, "there is no voluntary support on affirmative action in Boston." She informed us that Boston's executive order on the matter have no statutory support. "State agencies have not been pushed to submit new plans for meeting affirmative action goals since Weld took Office in 1991," Doris Sue Wong, Globe staff. She formed the Legislature on Affirmative Action Task Force to conduct a separate review.

A best stated by Shaw, "affirmative action is a modest remedy and the least expensive way" for this country to make reparations for all the enormous injustices they have done to minorities.

▲ Education

Continued from page 2.

city public schools? No, hence the discrepancies in preparedness when these children grow into adults entering college. Does society in general encourage and support the educational promise of our people or is the focus on our athletic and musical ability? These are questions we must answer if we are to improve our situation.

As black students in college now, many of us

will have graduated by the year 2000. Does that mean we won't be affected? Not at all. We are being affected now, as our younger siblings and friends, and even our children will be unless we take action. Contact the US Department of Education, Washington D.C. 20208 and request information. Then ask questions. Remember: the fate of black college students lies within the hands of black college students. Do something.

▲ Welfare reform

Continued from page 2.

* School meals - Combine school lunch and breakfast programs into a block grant to the states.

* Family nutrition - Combine funding for several nutrition programs, including WIC, into a block grant to the states.

* Food stamps - Hold automatic increases in benefits to 2 percent a year. Require able-bodied people to work. Allow states to take over the program if there is a statewide system for delivering benefits electronically.

* Supplemental Security Income - Ban disability payments to drug addicts

and alcoholics. Cuts cash payments to some children with behavioral or mental disabilities. Replaces cash with medical benefits for other disabled children, and allows only the most severely disabled children to continue to receive cash.

* Child Support - Establishes state and national registries of child support orders and new hires to help track parents who refuse to pay. Requires states to set up programs to revoke and suspend the driving, professional, recreational and occupational licenses of parents who do not pay court-ordered support.

** Source, Associated Press, March 25, 1995.



emerging business

Painting Corporate America a Darker Shade

*The Progress of Blacks in Corporate America
in the 1990's and into the year 2000*

The Progress of Blacks in Corporate America

By Kathia Desronvil
Onyx Staff

In 1990 *Black Enterprise* magazine, in its June edition, listed the top ten black-owned companies:

1. TLC Beatrice Intentional Holdings, Inc., New York, processing and distribution of food products
2. Johnson Publishing Co., publishing, broadcasting, cosmetics, hair care
3. Philadelphia Coca-Cola Bottling Co. inc., Philadelphia, soft-drink bottling
4. H.J. Russell & Co., Atlanta, construction, communications, food and beverage
5. The Gordy Co., Los Angeles entertainment
6. Soft Sheen Products Inc., manufacturer
7. Trans Jones Inc./Jones Transfer Co., Michigan, transportation services
8. The Bing Group, Detroit, steel processing and distribution
9. The Maxima Corp., Maryland, systems engineering and computer management
10. Dick Goeffey(sp?) Productions, California, entertainment

In the *Chicago Tribune*, on November 8, 1990 Nancy Ryan reports that Hawthorn Medley Inc, a Schaumburg based dairy company has been "transformed into the nation's sixth largest black-owned company."

The 1980's had not been a very good for black-owned businesses but by 1990 it was clear that they were in the business sector for the long haul. Black business ownership was "growing twice as fast the overall rate of growth over five years," *Boston Globe*. According to a Census Bureau report they had increased 38 percent, from 308,000 in 1992 to 424,000 in 1987 (the most recent year for which information had been available). The increase was compared to 14 percent of the total US businesses.

Receipts of black-owned firms rose from 105 percent, from \$9.6 billion to \$19.8 billion. Total revenues skyrocketed 106 percent, from \$967.5 billion to \$1.9 trillion, 94 percent were sole proprietorships of which one half were service businesses and 16 percent in retail trade.

The rise in 1990 of black-owned businesses were concentrated in the south, Atlanta to be precise. By 1987 Black Atlantans occupied 11,804 businesses compared to 6,389 businesses five years earlier. So "while black owned businesses rose, we still had far to go," said Yvonne Conway,

of the US. Department of Commerce's Minority Business Development Agency's Office in Atlanta.

1991 marked the eve of young generation black entrepreneurs challenging the top-ranking elite. "Out with the old, in with the new." Some of these newer entrepreneurs included Ricardo Cumberbatch, founder of Coastal Communications of America Inc., a New York-based company that operated pay telephones in six states; Carole Riley a former frustrated employer of Time Warner Inc. who became a McDonald's Corp. franchise eventually rounding C.H. Riley Enterprises Inc.; Theodore Adams 3rd, president of Pyrocap International Corp.

The angle of the younger generation was their target market. While the older companies aimed at mostly the black community, the newer companies targeted the white market as well, gaining a competitive edge.

It is 1995 and black business owners have advanced to senior levels as CEO's of major corporations enhancing white America with a darker shade. However attaining high level positions is still a challenge for Blacks. "Many African-Americans fear that the ceiling may be moved higher in the years ahead, with high-level management jobs even harder to obtain," reported in the *Atlanta Journal Constitution*.

According to the Census Bureau African-Americans have made "sizeable gains" in the job market. The unemployment rate for blacks has fallen below 10 percent, a 21 year low. Blacks make up 12 percent of US population but occupy less than 5 percent of senior management jobs. Only 10 percent of blacks are filling executive/managerial. "Between 1965 and 1995 we have made some progress but statistically, it hasn't been that significant," expressed Renee Redwood, Executive director of the Glass Ceiling Commission.

By the year 2000 statistics show that minorities will dominate the work force so for those who predict a bleak future for black businesses, don't despair. But in what positions? That remains somewhat in our hands, the younger generation of black entrepreneurs. We have taken many a blows but we have always overcome. "No pain, no gain", therefore black power will maintain!



Kenneth I. Chenault

Chenault, 43, was named vice chairman of the \$94 billion American Express Co. It is predicted that the talented executive will one day head the company.

Fudge is president of Maxwell House Coffee Co., a subsidiary of the \$7 billion General Foods USA for which she is executive vice president.



Ann M. Fudge

Expand Your Thoughts - Enlighten Your Minds Pick up a Book From Savannah Books

By Kathia Desronvil
Onyx Staff

If you are one of the many college students, struggling to balance school, a job or jobs, you probably will fit in the category of the many unfortunate blacks who are guilty of illiteracy in regards to black literature and "our" history. Savannah Books located in Cambridge on 1132 Massachusetts Ave. is here to provide the cure. It is about a half hour to an hour on the Red line. It is two blocks down from Harvard Square.

Savannah Books was founded in 1988 by and is presently run by Gail Pettiford Willit. A strong and dedicated black woman insistent to provide the afrocentric food for our thoughts. She decided to establish a children's bookstore after searching in vain for black literature for her children. Ironically, Ms. Willit was a psychiatric nurse by trade but this was her "personal search" and six years later Savannah Books is one of the very well known and emerging black businesses in Boston.

The books range from contemporary, historical, biographical, fictional styles but her focus are the children, specifically of Native American, Latino, Asian, Hispanic, and Afro-American background. Ms. Willit feels that there is a "lack of positive books" who teach them about their culture and history. She has made it her objective to provide the few that do present this positive education. Ms. Willit is more that just a literarian, she is also an educator. Savannah Books holds several workshops a year at local grade schools, high schools, community churches and colleges

including Northeastern University. Every year she sponsors a book fair at the John D. O'Bryant African-American Institute Library. In the workshops she introduces and encourages parents to teach their kids about black history through books because it is "powerful to be read to." She also sponsors many booksigning events by authors such as Walter Moseley, "Black Mystery," Mildred Rilly, editor of Essence Magazine, Connie Brisco, author of "Sisters & Lovers," Valery Wilson Wellesley, Irene Smalls also Verona F. Ellis Brockton.

Presently Savannah Books circulates a volume of over 6,000 different titles by authors like Terry MacMillan and Alex Haley. The books are purchased through black distributors, publishers, and wholesalers in New York and New Jersey. There are future plans of expansion physically to facilitate in-house author appearances but also by networking with many more institutions of learning and branching into other locations. Ms. Willit encourages starting your "own business" but she advocates upcoming entrepreneurs to open up bookstores. She feels you can "make a difference by encouraging reading... helping people to discover their place of belonging in history." The pros and cons are that you will "get to read many books, meet interesting people such as famous authors, publishers, etc." but it is a fast paced environment for "your work is never done and carried to the next day... never a clean slate." Ms. Willit also feels if she had to do it all over again the different approach would have to have "learned more about business."



Speak out

Black Leadership

By S.X. Jones

Black leaders are seen today to be far and in between. As the need for a specified black leadership to emerge heightens, the presence of people with the dedication and organizing skills known in the 60's and 70's is now hopelessly desired.

In the 1950's Black Americans started organizing, in a quite, but swift state of preparation for a fight that would ultimately cost many peace of mind, and some the breathe of life. And from that time to the present "the struggle". Two well known leaders, past and present, that have forever affected the minds of the black masses, are Malcolm X, and Minister Louis Farrakhan.

Though the Dr. Kings and the Stockley Carmichaels (Kwame Toure) laid the historic foundation for the civil rights movement, the Nation of Islam produced different kinds of leaders. Their representatives of the Honorable Elijah Muhammad had the charisma to express the anger of Black, at Whites, and the bold position to fight with those who dare fight with them.

Malcolm rose very quickly in the ranks even having the privilege to meet the Honorable Elijah Muhammad. After having developed a more in-depth respect for Muhammad, Malcolm quit his Ford Motor Co. job in preparation to become Minister Malcolm X. Malcolm after an invitation went to Chicago to visit Mr. Muhammad. Muhammad taught Malcolm personally until he felt he was ready to teach and then sent Malcolm to Boston to preach Islam. Malcolm taught in the home of a Brother Lloyd X. Malcolm taught more and more, quickly gaining the respect of Mr. Elijah Muhammad enough respect to become the minister in New York's Temple #7. As the minister of #7 Malcolm became the National Representative of Messenger Elijah Muhammad. The respect that Malcolm helped bring to the NOI was unlike any other in the history of the organization's growth.

After 12 years service to the NOI, Malcolm traveled all over the world diplomatically representing Muhammad's teaching. It was in Malcolm's 12 year that jealousy arose in the NOI and the plot to get Malcolm to leave Muhammad was evident. Malcolm had been hearing all kinds of stories about Mr. Muhammad, but he never stopped working; he always kept his faith in the work. One day the some earth shattering news came to Malcolm, the news was from one of the sons of the Honorable Elijah Muhammad, and the story was that Mr. Muhammad had sexual relationships with his secretaries. Malcolm questioned Mr. Muhammad on this information and it was explained to Malcolm that the women were wives the work of Mr. Muhammad. studied what needed to be on defending his teacher. needed to produce more children for This period was in 1963 and Malcolm studied to defend Muhammad and went On November 22, 1963 President John F. Kennedy was assassinated and Mr. Muhammad instructed his Ministers to say nothing concerning the death of the president. Muhammad sent a letter of condolences to the wife and family of the president in sincere regret. While on a trip Malcolm made the mistake of saying that the death of the president was a sign of the chickens coming home to roost," Muhammad was outraged over his students statements and immediately silenced the minister. While being silenced Malcolm called a press conference to leave the Nation of Islam, saying that he could better help the cause of the NOI outside of it. Malcolm departure from the NOI caused many problems in New York. Malcolm started the "Muslim Mosque Incorporated," this organization was established after Malcolm went to Mecca in Saudi Arabia to make pilgrimage known in the Muslim world as hajj, an obligated trip for all Muslims who can afford it. While in Mecca Malcolm found a universal Islamic brotherhood which totally revolutionized his beliefs and was obviously an experience that he didn't see the other two time he went to Mecca with the Honorable Elijah Muhammad. Malcolm returned to America with idea to start the "Organization of African Unity" otherwise known as the OAAU.

In 1963, when Malcolm X split ties with the NOI, Minister Louis received two items, the last name Farrakhan, and the Ministership of Temple #7. Now known as Minister Louis Farrakhan, the Minister was given the post of National Representative of Mr. Muhammad. Muhammad placed much trust in Farrakhan relinquishing to his student his national radio broadcast. Muhammad later said at a public meeting of Minister Farrakhan: "Minister Farrakhan is one of the finest preachers of Islam in North America ... wherever you see him follow him and wherever he tells you to go, go, because he will carry you over the water on his back and when he gets you there he won't say: "look what I have done," he will say: "look what Allah has done." That was one order the followers of Muhammad did follow. When in 1975 the family of Muhammad held a press conference on February 25, 1975, claiming that the patriarch of their family had died, Farrakhan made a statement to follow Wallace Muhammad, one of the sons of the Honorable Elijah Muhammad. Spending three years with Imam Wallace Muhammad, Minister Farrakhan left the new leadership style of Imam Muhammad, angered at his total alleviation of the teachings of his father..

In 1977 Minister Farrakhan started Minister Farrakhan started the rebuilding of the Nation of Islam. To generate money for the organizational stages of the NOI,

Revolution

We will not bow down to racism.
We will not bow down to injustice.
We will not bow down to exploitation.

I'm gonna Stand.

I'm gonna Stand.

Freedom!

Where will people of color be in the year 2000, economically, educationally, politically, and socially? This issue is a report on the future of black people. So you may ask, where does revolution fit in? Every 30 years since we were brought here there has been some kind of revolutionary act to protest for freedom. The 60's brought about the civil rights movement. This movement which cut lines of internal racism, unified our race for a common cause, justice.

In 1992 we were allowed to be a part of the Los Angeles riots, due to the mass media. Although these riots provoked something in all of us, it somehow wasn't enough to evoke a unified sense of justice.

The stories featured in this issue focus on some key factors of the Contract with America. This plan devised by the Republican party projects 10 hills that will "better the lives of American people." If you have noticed Affirmative action, Welfare, and Education are key factors. What does that mean for you? If your parents/ and or guardians were employed as result of Affirmative action, and it is eliminated, where will there be in the year 2000? If you or your parent/guardian are recipients of Welfare, and do not abuse it, when it is cut, how will you live in the year 2000? If you are fortunate enough to be here on any type of scholarship and or grant and it is cut, furthermore for the future or your children, how will you and they be educated in the year 2000?

The beginning of this editorial focused on a song by various female artists from the movie Panther. The words evoke something, something that had to be there during the 60's *Can't you hear it?* The results of The Contract with America will be social injustice to our people. We need to Stand together, and devise a plan so that our people can experience freedom in the year 2000!

By Lori D. Nelson
I.R.

The Onyx Informer

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The views expressed in The Onyx Informer are those of the author and not necessarily those of the administration of Northeastern University or the Onyx Informer Editorial Board.

Minister Farrakhan sold his family home in order to establish the Final Call Newspaper. In 1984 Minister Farrakhan died the unheard of, when he and his followers registered to vote for Reverend Jesse L. Jackson, who had announced his bid for presidency of the United States.

Minister Farrakhan was so concerned about the safety of the Reverend Jackson and his family that he placed his own personal security detail around both Jackson and his family. Minister Farrakhan gave Jackson his security because at that time the U.S. secret service didn't take the Reverend serious. After Jackson made comments to an off duty reporter, Milton, Coleman, saying that New York City was "Hymie Town," Jewish opposition for Jackson grew highly, including some organizations calling for death of the black candidate. Minister Farrakhan in speeches to defend Jackson made several remarks to also anger the Jewish community, and this gave the Muslim leader a world wide platform.



black man/black woman

The silent killer strikes black men

By Theresa 2X Findley
Onyx Staff

Prostate and Colon cancer are running rampant among the Black and Hispanic communities. After Black men have successfully dodged bullets, police brutality and racism they are still left to fight another war, only this time it's from within. Many of the young brothers, and sisters reading this article could say, "why do I need to be concerned?, I'm in my 20's, call me in 40 years." Well, because our grandfathers, fathers, uncles and other loved ones are dying, and we as young adults need to take the vanguard position and warn those who do not know.

In men, the colon is a part of the long intestine and the prostate is a muscular organ at the base of the urinary bladder. According to the American Cancer society, statistics show that prostate cancer is rare among men younger than 50 years old, but for men younger than 65 years, the incidence rate is 20.5 per 100,000. For men older than 65 years the rate is 819 per 100,000. For men 75 years

and older the incidence rate is more than 1000 per 100,000. You can argue that these are statistics from Florida, but Black Americans have the highest incidence of prostate cancer in the world. So it does not matter where you live you are still at risk. The age-adjusted mortality rates for Black men in a seven year period averaged 49.3 per 100,000 men compared with 19.3 per 100,000 for White men. Minorities in lower income brackets less knowledgeable about the causes and the means to prevent cancer, because the information is not reaching the black ghettos.

Prostate cancer is the leading cause of cancer death among Black men. By the turn of the century, the incidence of prostate cancer is expected to increase 90%. Men who wait to get exams for prostate and colon cancer are kissing their families goodbye, too soon. Young black men need to know the things they can do now to prevent cancer.

Women have you had your check up, lately?

By Lori D. Nelson
Onyx Staff

Certain oral contraceptives have been researched to prove 99 percent preventive against pregnancy. These contraceptives, the one most commonly used being the "pill" are administered by yearly check ups with a gynecologist. For those who have invested in other contraceptives, are yearly check ups required? Furthermore, is safe sexual activity even contemplated due to a promise of a five year guaranteed of not being impregnated?

The contraceptive that I am speaking of is the highly controversial Norplant. Manufactured by Wyeth-Ayerst Laboratories, Norplant is made up of six match stick-sized capsules that are inserted beneath the skin of the upper arm. These capsules release a drug that inhibits ovulation and thickens the mucus on the cervix, making it more difficult for sperm to enter. This form of contraception is effective for five years, with approximately a 98 percent success rate.

Researchers from the New York Hospital-Cornell Medical Center report, "Our findings suggest that Norplant will be a popular contraceptive option among adolescents who have had contraceptive failure and pregnancy." On the bases of this study some women's groups and physicians have criticized the contraceptive because if a woman no longer wants to use Norplant, will there be complications in the removal of the treatment?

Other questions emerge from the Black community. Robert A. Hatcher of Emory University and James Trussell of Princeton University argue that, "The implants are clearly more difficult to remove than to insert, particularly if they were inserted too deeply."

Hatcher and Trussell also comment on the fact that women who choose Norplant, will have a harder time finding a qualified physician who can successfully remove the treatment if serious side effects occur. Hatcher and Trussell continue "when women find it difficult to have their implants removed it raises the question whether this a completely voluntary method of contraception."

For those who favor Norplant, it is a system that is 99 percent effective in preventing pregnancy. Furthermore with the proper annual check-ups,

Breast Cancer: some facts

Breast Cancer is the most common cancer among women in America. It is a disease that every woman needs to worry about and be informed about. It can affect anyone regardless of racial background or economical status.

According to the American Cancer Society, Inc. one in nine women will have breast cancer in her lifetime; 46,000 females will die as a result of breast cancer, and 182,000 women will be diagnosed with breast cancer.

There is no known cure, or causes of prevention for breast cancer. Scientists are still researching if certain factors such as heredity, environment, lifestyle and diet may play a role in causing breast cancer. It is very essential for every woman to do a monthly self-exam. If detected at an early stage, it can be treated effectively and it gives woman a higher chance of survival.

What is breast cancer: The American Cancer Society describes cancer as an abnormal growth of cells that grow out of control and form masses known as tumors that are malignant. Once they invade or destroy normal tissue of the body, the cells break away from the original tumors and spread to other parts of the body.

RISK FACTORS: According to the National Alliance of Breast Cancer, Every woman is at risk; the chance of getting breast cancer increases as one gets older; there is an acute increase of breast cancer after the age of 40 and 80 percent of breast cancer occurs in women who are over 50 years of age. A woman who has personal history of breast cancer in her family, has never had any children or had her first child after 30, is at a higher risk of developing breast cancer. Seventy percent cases of women who are diagnosed with breast cancer do not have any identifiable risk factors.

SYMPTOMS: The most common sign is a lump in the breast. Usually, it starts as a painless lump anywhere in the breast. Other signs include swelling, puckering or dimpling, skin irritation, pain, or tenderness of the nipples.

DIAGNOSIS: Most breast lumps are found by women themselves. If a woman discovers a breast lump or is experiencing other symptoms that are related to breast cancer, she should have a mammogram (an x-ray picture of the breast) examination of both breasts done. A mammography is not one of the best ways to detect breast cancer; it does not detect every lump in the breast, about 10 percent to 15 percent of cancers do not show up on a mammogram. Moreover, a biopsy which is a surgical way to detect that cancer cells are present.

TREATMENT: Therefore, different methods of effective treatment are applied depending on the type, the stage and the nature of the cancer. The main treatment for breast cancer is to surgically remove the cancerous area. Some of the different types of surgery include: lumpectomy, when the lump and a border of tissue are removed. Partial or Segmental Mastectomy is when the tumor and one quarter of the breast tissue are removed. Simple or total Mastectomy, is when the entire breast is removed. In addition radiation therapy is used to destroy cancer cells. Usually it is not needed after a mastectomy. Chemotherapy is commonly used with along with surgery.

The survival rates of breast cancer patients depend on the nature and the degree of development of the cancerous tumor. Today the five-year survival rate is 92 percent for women with breast cancer. Patients who have more cancer widespread around the breast the chance of survival is 18 percent and 71 percent if it is spread to the area of the breast.

PREVENTION: There is no prevention of breast cancer; but there are measures that one can take to detect it early stage so it can be treated promptly.

The American Cancer Society recommends three-steps early detection program:

- Have a regular mammogram. One every year beginning at age 40.
- See your doctor for regular breast exams: at least every three years between the ages of 20 and 40 and every year over 40.
- Practice monthly breast self-exam: A doctor or your nurse can teach you the proper method.

Information was collected from the American Cancer Society, Inc. National Alliance of Breast Cancer Organizations.

Norplant could prove promising for those who do not wish to have children.

On the other hand, one can not overlook that fact that the Norplant studies were conducted and tested on "predominately single, black, poor and single-parent households." With this in mind Black women need to carefully decide, either for "regularity" purposes, or due to sexual activity; whether Norplant or the use of Birth Control pill is the safest and most effective way to reduce pregnancies and sexually transmitted disease.

Information for this report researched from *The Washington Post*- Washington D.C. and *The News Tribune*- Tacoma, WA.



unity day '95





expressions

Black is beautiful and to that
I am dutiful.
Why do my people act stupid
when they see a nappy head?
Cause under that perm I swear
I see a nappy root.
You see ya' can't hide, so don't
fight it.
Now recite it, "I am black, and
I am beautiful. Everything that's
black about me, I will always be dutiful."
So all you processed; permed and
fried heads, say black is beautiful
and go nappy instead.
And for all you die hard pre-processed
girls, with curls, cornrows will do!

Ayanna McRae

Black people,
my people,
clean the crust away,
from your eyes,
so that you might see.
See the chains, the devil
keeps locked.
Locked around your mind.
Caught up-in that mental slavery.
Four hundred years and we still
ain't free.
Locked behind the bars of pride and
prejudice.
The devil has been lurking in the
minds of the youth.
They roam around in a fog
so that they can't see the truth.
Truth be told, knowledge unfolds.

Ayanna McRae

The Greeks called Africa, Ethiopia
-the meaning in truth
is "land of the sun-burnt" or
"dark-skinned people".
You see back then, we weren't
inferior. Our knowledge was superior.
-But we trusted the white man
and took him to our homeland.
We taught him as a teacher
to a student.
-But as you see, the white man
was not capable of understanding.
So he went back and twisted the truth.
He misused and abused what we
taught him. His mind was set on
divide & conquer. So he came
back and pitted tribe against
tribe and black against black.
Causing the state of confusion of
my people today.
-And if anything don't call yourself
a Negro. It comes from the Greek
word *necro*—meaning dead.
Which describes the state of mind
of too many youth.
So open up your head and bring forth
life. Too much time spent wallowing
in pain & strife.

Ayanna McRae

Images flash across my mind.
Life is a mystery, that can
never be solved.
Deeper and deeper I sink into
this ocean.
Life,

constantly keeps me in motion.
My insides are filled with a
passion that only subsides
with time.
I will emerge victorious.

- Cause life, love and time
won't let me wait.
My eyes are opened
so that I may see.
The person that I am
and who I hope to be.

Ayanna McRae

HISTORY OF THE ONYX INFORMER

The *Onyx Informer*, Northeastern's Newspaper Designed for People of Color, was founded on November 3, 1972. It's purpose was (and still is) to inform people of color of current issues in respect to the campus and the community at large.

Meetings
Thursday Nights
6:30 - 7:00PM
Room 430 SC

